

Marriage Principles By Greg Rangel

We are living in a day in which families are being torn apart because of divorce. I am sure that half of you have either repeated the marital vows, or at least have witnessed a wedding whether in person or on T.V. and have heard the vows that were exchanged between the then happy groom and beautiful bride.

Do you remember saying or hearing the vows that go something like this, “I take thee as my lawfully wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part?”

No doubt that when either party originally said those words that there was a great joy, happiness and excitement in their hearts and intended to truly honor those vows until death did them part, or so they thought. But something has gone wrong since then that has caused either party to break that original pact that was made on that beautiful wedding day, causing much pain and sorrow for many.

Divorce is not and should not be an option. The decision to divorce will not only have a negative and long lasting effect on you, but it will also affect those that surround you. But most importantly, it will affect your precious children, not only while the divorce is taking place, but for the rest of their lives. The divorce will affect the way they view life and the decisions they themselves will make in the future.

My wife and I have been together for twenty one years and married for nineteen years and have four wonderful children whom we greatly love and consider our pride and joy.

Throughout these twenty one years we have learned valuable lessons that have strengthened our marriage and has united us as a couple that is truly in love with each other. My wife and I enjoy spending time with each other because of those valuable lessons that we have learned and have decided to put into practice. Therefore it is my desire to share some of these lessons with you the reader so that you too might be blessed the way we have been, if incase you are struggling in your marriage and are considering divorce.

Now, I know that there are many of you that have most likely been married longer than I have and perhaps you too have had a very successful marriage as I. I say praise the Lord for that. But no doubt there might be many of you that have been married longer than I have but can hardly say that your marriage has been everything else but successful. Perhaps you have considered your marriage at one time or another a nightmare to say the least. It is to you that I dedicate this series to, and to you that perhaps is just starting out in marriage, or might have been married for a while, and to those that are considering marriage in the near or distant future.

Now, I am not claiming to know it all, but I am saying that there is hope out there that you can cling on to if incase you are currently struggling in your marriage. These principles have caused my marriage to be an everlasting one. They are found in the Word of God. But I have seen even non-Christian marriages that have had a very successful marriage as well because of their choice to observe these principles. So therefore you don't necessarily have to be a Christian to have a successful marriage, only a willing heart to give it a try.

Proverbs 18:22 says that "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*" I believe that. So please know that if you are married, you have found a good thing and have obtained favor of the Lord.

The Lord has blessed you through the wife or husband that He has given you. But it is up to you now to take care of your marriage. Some might have to work extra hard at it, while others might have it more easy. Unfortunately quite too often people will give up so easily because of the fact that they do not want to deal with it any longer. But and if you truly love your spouse and children, every effort to try will be worth it. Please stay tuned...